

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
September 13, 2016



Buell's Orchard co-owner Jeff Sandness picks an apple from a row of Macoun trees bearing a robust crop, unlike the McIntosh trees in the foreground that were damaged in an April frost and have produced a fraction of their typical yield.

APPLE HARVEST EXPECTED TO BE A SUCCESS DESPITE CHALLENGES FOR GROWERS

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

Patty and Jeff Sandness were handing out apple samples at the Woodstock Fair over Labor Day weekend when a regular customer of their Buell's Orchard in Eastford approached them with a look of surprise.

"She said she had heard that we didn't have any apples this year," Patty recalled with a hint of exasperation. "It is a tight year for us - but we have plenty of apples."

Like many orchards around the state, Buell's did suffer significant crop loss due to an early April cold snap and frost that damaged trees' fruit buds, which had come out early due to a warm spell in March. That followed a mid-February freeze that wiped out their peach crop.

While the Sandness's and other growers say that the wholesale apple market likely will be affected, retail and pick-your-own customers should be able to find their favorite varieties, even with the dry conditions that have also reduced the crop overall.

Brian Kelliher, who runs Easy Pickins' Orchard in Enfield and is president of the Connecticut Apple Marketing Board

(CAMB), says the size of the apples themselves is also expected to be smaller.

"The upside is that the fruit can be sweeter because sugars are more concentrated," Kelliher said. "It has been a challenging season but I expect that most growers will find a way to adapt and make it a successful one."

Buell's opened for pick-your-own on Labor Day weekend and heard no complaints.

"For the most part customers who go out there and pick aren't going to notice that there's 50 apples on a tree instead of the usual 200 or so," Patty said.

Frost damage at the orchard, which has been in the Buell/Sandness family for 127 years, varied widely around their 75 acres of apple trees.

Cortland and McIntosh and Red Delicious varieties were hit hard, but Empire, Gala, Jonagold and Honeycrisp did well.

"We're a little colder up here in Eastford," said Jeff, who runs the farm with his brother Jonathan. "Even a half-degree can make a big difference," in whether a bud survives or not.

(Continued on Page 3)

LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	66.00	69.50
boners 80-85% lean	65.00	69.00
lean 88-90% lean	58.00	63.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	114.50	118.00
Choice 2-3	110.50	115.00
Sel 1-2	105.00	110.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEIN STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	106.00	108.00
Ch 2-3	95.00	103.00
Sel 1-2	91.00	98.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 94-128 lbs	117.00	137.00
No 1 90-112 lbs	110.00	130.00
No 1 80-85 lbs	110.00	110.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
70-80 lbs	225.00	240.00
80-90 lbs	221.00	227.00
90-110 lbs	210.00	225.00
110-130 lbs	170.00	220.00
150-200 lbs	182.00	202.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	115.00	138.00
120-160 lbs	90.00	120.00
160-200 lbs	80.00	100.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS		
160-200 lbs	115.00	155.00
200-300 lbs	122.00	125.00

DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWS

Sold by the head.

FRESH COWS:		
SUPREME	1520.00	1750.00
APPROVED	1325.00	1575.00
MEDIUM	1050.00	1325.00
BRED COWS (1-6 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	1100.00	1425.00
MEDIUM	1025.00	1125.00
BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	1250.00	1450.00
MEDIUM	1125.00	1225.00
SHORT BRED HEIFERS (1-3 MONTHS)		
APPROVED	1250.00	1325.00
MEDIUM	1000.00	1125.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	52.00	59.00
	300-350 lbs	45.00	52.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	45.00	54.00
Sows, US	1-3 300-500 lbs	32.00	39.00
	500-600 lbs	35.00	37.50
Boars	600-700 lbs	9.50	10.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA FEEDER PIGS

September 7, 2016

US 1-2	20-30 lbs	100.00	140.00
	30-40 lbs	80.00	90.00
	40-50 lbs	90.00	100.00
	50-80 lbs	60.00	80.00
	80-100 lbs	80.00	105.00
US 2	20-30 lbs	150.00	150.00
	30-40 lbs	50.00	90.00
	40-60 lbs	50.00	70.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
APPLES, GALA, LOOSE	28.00	30.00
APPLES, GALA, XFCY, 80	28.00	30.00
APPLES, GINGERGLD, LOOSE	26.00	26.00
APPLES, HNEYCRISP, LOOSE	55.00	55.00
APPLES, MCINTOSH, LOOSE	26.00	26.00
APPLES, MCINTOSH, XFCY, 80	30.00	30.00
BEANS, CRANBERRY, BU	28.00	30.00
BEANS, FLAT GREEN, BU	24.00	25.00
BEANS, GREEN, HND PK, BU	26.00	28.00
BEANS, GREEN, MACH PK, BU	28.00	28.00
BEANS, WAX, BU	28.00	28.00
BLUEBERRY, NONCULT, 12-1PT	60.00	60.00
BROCCOLI, TRIMMED, 18 LBS	16.00	16.00
BROCCOLI, CROWN, 14, 20LBS	13.00	14.00
CABBAGE, 50 LBS	12.00	12.00
CAULIFLOWER, FLTJKTPAK, 9	12.00	14.00
CAULIFLOWER, FLTJKTPAK, 12	12.00	14.00
CHIVES, 1 LB, BUNCHED	8.00	10.00
COLLARDS, BUNCHED, 12	12.00	14.00
CORN, SWT, BI-COLR, 48, CRATE	10.00	12.50
CORN, SWT, BI-COLR, 60	8.00	18.00
CUKES, #1, 1-1/9	24.00	24.00
CUKES, #2, 1-1/9	14.00	14.00
CUKES, MED, WXED, 1-1/9	24.00	25.00
CUKES, PICKLERS, 1/2 BU	16.00	16.00
EGGPLANT, 1-1/9	14.00	14.00
EGGPLANT, CHINESE, 30 LBS	24.00	25.00
EGGPLANT, THAI, 20 LBS	15.00	15.00
GRAPES, CONCORD, 8-1 QT	24.00	26.00
KALE, BUNCHED, 12	12.00	16.00
MINT, 12, 1/2 BU	10.00	12.00
PEPPER, BELL, ALL, 1-1/9	14.00	18.00
PEPPER, CHERRY HOT, 1/2 BU	16.00	20.00
PEPPER, CUBANL, Y/GMIX, 1-1/9	15.00	16.00
PEPPERS, JALAPENO, 1/2 BU	15.00	18.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1 CHEF, 50LB	15.00	15.00
POTATO, RUSST, #1, 100Z, 50 LB	14.00	15.00
POTATO, RSST, #1, 40, 50LB CTN	14.00	15.00
POTATO, RUSST, #1, 70-90, 50LB	13.00	15.50
POTATO, RUSST, #1, 100-120, 50#	11.00	12.00
POTATO, YEL, #1, CHEF, 50 LB	18.00	20.00
PMPKN, CINDRBLND, 36"BIN, /LB	.27	.27
PMKIN, FAIRYTALE, 1/2 BU	15.00	16.00
PUMPKIN, HOWDEN, 36"BIN, /LB	.21	.21
PUMPKIN, MINIS, 1/2 BU	15.00	16.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, 1-1/9	15.00	16.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, 36"BIN,	200.00	220.00
PUMPKIN, SUGAR, 36"BIN, /LB	.24	.24
RHUBARB, FIELD GRN, 20 LBS	35.00	35.00
SQUASH, ACORN/BTTNT, 1-1/9	12.00	22.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, 1-1/9	12.00	14.00
SQUASH, YEL/GRN, #1, 1/2 BU	14.00	20.00
SQUASH, YLLW, SM, MED, 1/2 BU	16.00	24.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, 1/2 BU	8.00	14.00
TARRAGON, 12 BUNCH, 1 LB	8.00	10.00
TOMATOES, 20 LBS	20.00	28.00
TOMS, CHRY, 8-10 OZ	16.00	20.00
TOM, CHRY, GHSE, ONVINE, 5LB	16.00	18.00
TOM, CHRY, GHSE, 8-10 OZ	24.00	26.00
TOMS, GRAPE, 8-10 OZ	16.00	20.00
TOMS, GHSE, ONVINE, 11 LBS	10.00	10.00
TOMS, GHSE, LOOSE, 25 LBS	15.00	15.00
TOMS, HEIRLM, GHSE, 10 LBS	24.00	25.00
TOMS, PLUM, ROMA, 25 LBS	12.00	16.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - September 12, 2016

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	45.00	50.00
61-75 lbs.	82.00	85.00
76-90 lbs.	87.50	90.00
91-105 lbs.	92.50	97.50
106 lbs. & up	99.00	102.00
Farm Calves	105.00	130.00
Starter Calves	40.00	44.00
Veal Calves	80.00	110.00
Open Heifers	75.00	115.00
Beef Heifers	n/a	n/a
Feeder Steers	95.00	150.00
Beef Steers	110.00	125.00
Stock Bulls	95.00	125.00
Beef Bulls	90.00	95.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	875.00	1000.00
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	47.50	65.00
Feeder Pigs each	1@	50.00
Sheep each	57.50	75.00
Lambs each	50.00	210.00
Goats each	125.00	260.00
Kid Goats each	40.00	125.00
Canners	up to	67.00
Cutters	68.00	71.00
Utility Grade Cows	72.00	75.00
Rabbits each	5.00	12.00
Chickens each	5.00	20.00
Ducks each	8.00	12.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.70	.96
LARGE	.64	.78
MEDIUM	.34	.47

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.18	1.29
LARGE	1.08	1.19
MEDIUM	.54	.64
SMALL	.32	.42

NORTHEAST RETAIL MEAT PRICES

\$ per lb.

PORK		
Spare ribs	1.48	3.99
Pork sirloin chops, bnls	1.89	1.99
Loin, whole, b/in	1.79	2.99
Loin roast, b/in	1.49	3.99
Assorted chops, bnls	1.49	3.47
Center cut chops, bnls	1.88	3.99
Sirloin chops, bnls	1.68	2.49
Fresh picnic, b/in	.99	1.99
Porketta	2.99	2.99
BEEF		
Ground beef, 90% or more	3.99	6.99
Rib eye steak, b/i	14.99	14.99
NY strip steak, bnls	4.99	12.99
Sirloin Roast	5.99	5.99
Sirloin Steak	3.99	9.99
Chuck Roast	2.89	4.79
Top Round Roast	4.49	5.99

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

85-R. 8 yearling Baldy steers. 8 open yearling Baldy heifers. 4 bred Baldy heifers due August. 860-485-5720.

89-R. Beautiful winter squash, Acorn, Butternut, Spaghetti by the box or bin. East Windsor, Connecticut. Call Karl 860-268-5931 or Glenn 860-930-4331 to arrange pickup.

90-R. For Sale: Mulch hay in 500 lb. round bales. Asking 19.00 per bale. Call Mike Sr. – 860-528-4660.

91-R. Rough sawn hemlock and pine lumber, great for fall time repairs and construction. Oak trailer decking and sideboards. Pine shiplap and Tongue & Groove perfect for barn siding. We welcome custom sawn orders. Custom furniture ranging from bar tops to outdoor furniture. Large inventory of live edge slabs. Hinman Lumber, Burlington, CT. 860-673-9170.

96-R. Bulk rye seed for cover crop. Also, bright, clean straw, square bales or net wrapped round bales. 860-355-1264.

97-R. Truckload sale 1/2 bushel apple/peach baskets: \$2.00 each for 1000, \$3.00 each for 500. Doug 860-657-4172.

98-R. Round bales 4x4 haylage. Triple plastic wrapped. \$50.00. 150 bales. Griswold. Call 860-884-2889.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.

CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION

92-R. Hills Farm- Dairy farm in Hebron CT seeking part time worker to milk and feed cows and clean barns and pens etc. Call Greg at 860-573-2664.

95-R. Wanted: Experienced vegetable grower- looking for a full time person to help oversee a new branch of our existing farm business. Experience in field crops and greenhouse is a must. Please contact Charles at 203-214-1408 or crbeasley@albertus.edu

FREE CT APPLES MOBILE APP AVAILABLE

Last year, the CT Apple Marketing Board (CAMB) launched a free mobile phone app that offers customers information on orchards across the state.

More than 300 people are now using the app, which can be downloaded for free on Google Play or iTunes through the CAMB website: www.ctapples.org.

Users have instant access to what apples and other products are available at orchards, as well as directions, social media links, listings of events at orchards and more, such as what apples are best to use for baking, preserving or eating.

CTApples social media links include Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and Twitter. Users can share photos of their visits to orchards by using the hashtag #ctapples on Instagram or Facebook.

(Continued from Page 1)

Steering his pickup through a "block" of younger trees adjacent to an irrigation pond, Jeff described how terrain and other topographic features can influence the fate of a specific area of the orchard.

"This end did better because the pond is right here and the air drainage was a little better because of the slope," he said. "Cold air goes downhill. That's why there are so many orchards on hillsides."

The farm installed two 40-foot-tall wind machines a couple of years ago that are designed to prevent frost by circulating the air amongst the trees, but they weren't enough to prevent the damage.

Jeff said the McIntosh's, always among the first to bloom, were hit particularly hard because they had already pushed out half-inch "green tips" when the frost hit in early April.

The Macoun trees, which bud perhaps three or four days after the Macs, are doing just fine. Jeff believes that last season's very strong crop also may be playing a role in this year's situation.

The season following a bumper crop typically sees a smaller harvest because the trees are left somewhat weaker, he said. Last year's dry summer and autumn also may have been a factor.

"They just didn't get something that they needed," Jeff said. "One good rainstorm before winter could have made a difference."

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said apples are one of the state's largest and most important agricultural crops, with an average yearly harvest of about a half-million bushels worth \$12 million.

Apple season in Connecticut has also evolved to become much more than just picking fruit.

"Many of our orchards have worked hard to diversify their operations into tourist destinations that offer customers a rewarding agricultural experience that includes a variety of activities," Reviczky said.

In the coming weeks, Buell's plans to open a new cider mill/pasteurizing and bottling building, equipped with large interior windows that will allow customers to watch the year-round cider operation.

Buell's sells about 150,000 gallons of cider a year, making it likely the largest cider producer in the state. The farm recently bought a cider pasteurizer, with the help of a Dept. of Agriculture grant, that is being installed in the new building. Their cider is now pasteurized and bottled at Mountain Dairy in Mansfield.

Doing those tasks at the farm will not only enhance the cider operation as a tourism attraction, but will save the expense and labor of making several trips a week to Mountain Dairy with their 5,000 gallon tanker truck.

Buell's also offers vegetables and pumpkins in the fall, and their rustic retail store is set up so customers can browse for items like baked goods, jams, jellies, local honey and maple syrup, as well as cookbooks, kid's books and T-shirts.

They also hold an annual Harvest Festival every Columbus Day weekend that features live music, hayrides and a chicken barbecue in addition to apple and pumpkin picking.

"With the economy the way it is I think a lot of people are looking for a fun thing to do with the kids without spending a fortune," Patty said. "What better way to do that than to come out to an orchard?"



Above left: Patty and Jeff Sandness greet a customer in their retail store.



Above right: Jeff with a new cider pasteurizer.



Below right; the couple's great-nephews Thomas (L) and Kyle, and great-niece Hannah bite into their first Honeycrisp of the season, their favorite variety.



Advertising Rates: Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. For more information contact Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov or call 860-713-2588.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.
Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2017.

VOL. XCVI, No. 36, Sept. 13, 2016

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE**
www.CTGrown.gov 860-713-2500

Commissioner steven.reviczky@ct.gov	Steven K. Reviczky 860-713-2501
Agricultural Development linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov	Linda Piotrowicz 860-713-2503
Regional Market linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov	Linda Piotrowicz 860-566-3699
Farmland Preservation cam.weimar@ct.gov	Cameron Weimar, Ph.D. 860-713-2511
Regulation & Inspection bruce.sherman@ct.gov	Dr. Bruce Sherman 860-713-2504
State Veterinarian mary.lis@ct.gov	Dr. Mary J. Lis 860-713-2505
Aquaculture david.carey@ct.gov	David Carey 203-874-2865
Agricultural Report Editor steve.jensen@ct.gov	Steve Jensen 860-713-2519